



KZN EMMAUS



MINISTRIES



NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2019

Shalom...

THE MONTH THAT WAS

In last month's newsletter I speculated that with only three scheduled activities for March, we'd be able to catch our breath after the whirlwind start to the year. Oh, the naivety of a new Community Lay Director!

The board meeting and TFD3 on 9 March went off as planned and the Face To Face gathering at Poinsettia Park on the 14th was a wonderfully inspiring celebration of life, love, caring and sharing. To all involved, from the management and staff of Poinsettia Park, to the conference room team, to those who fetched and carried, prepared and served meals, washed cups and dishes, and then washed more cups and dishes and who tidied up and cleaned up, your unconditional servanthood was a wonderful manifestation of God's agape love. It impacted and changed lives to His glory. Bless you all.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

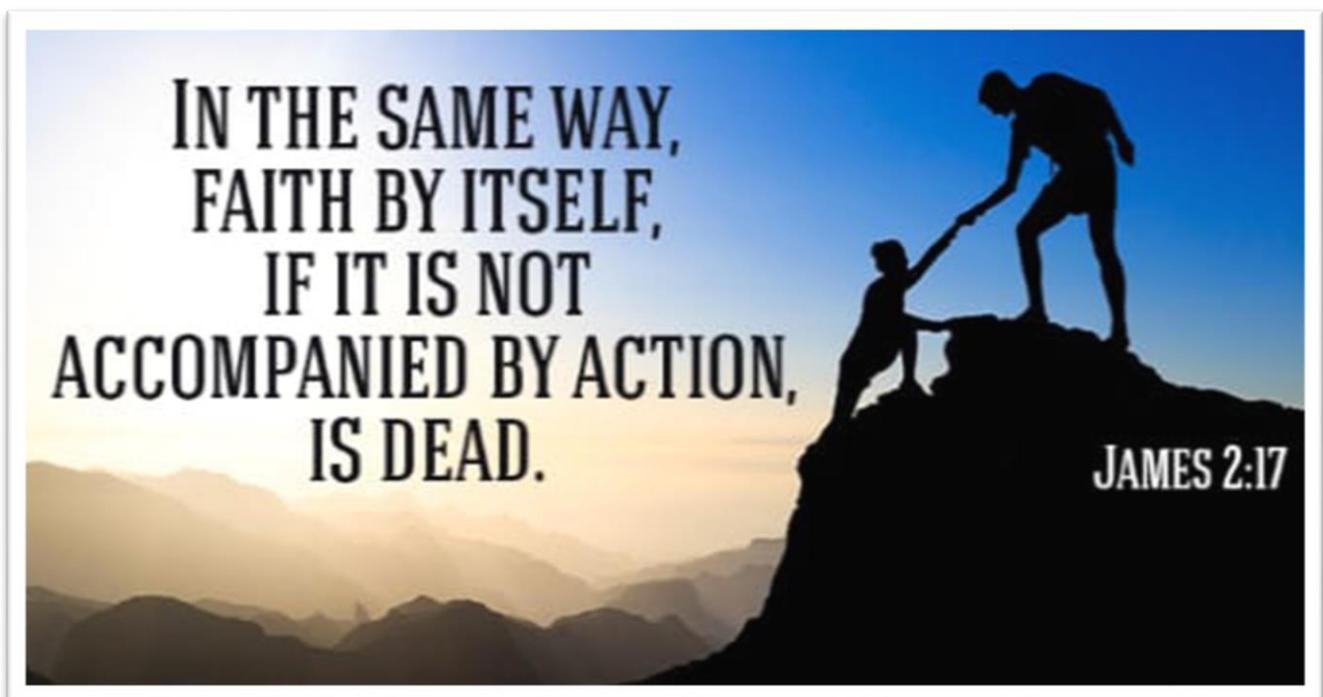
A board meeting and TFD4 at Westville Methodist Church on Saturday 13 are the only two scheduled events for April. The bulk of this month's activity is on either side of the Easter weekend and relates to the logistical preparation for the upcoming men's and ladies walks which are at the beginning of May, as well as what has become the perennial frantic scramble for pilgrims, without whom, of course, all the TFDs, planning, preparation and effort will have been for naught.

A quick glance at the website confirms that we have 13 ladies and 16 men registered so far. That in itself is encouraging news. But then there is that sobering note under the list of pilgrim's names that reminds us that there are still 23 places available on that walk. Oh, were it that today was 1 March

instead of 1 April! To have had 13 or 16 pilgrims then would have been wonderful news. But alas, today is not 1 March and the reality is that in 30 days the men's walk should have already started.

I'm sure that many of you will have heard the story about those three gentlemen, Somebody, Everybody and Nobody. Well, in the context of our efforts, as God's hands and feet, and knowing that God is counting on us, it is perhaps a story worth repeating. You see, there was an important job to be done. It was a job that Everybody could have done. Unfortunately, Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, with the result that in the end, Nobody did what Everybody could have done. Sound familiar?

I've seen a number of messages on social media urging people to have faith, keep praying and saying that everything is possible with God, just believe. As noble and true as those statements of faith are, there is however a caveat to them and that caveat is found in James 2:17 "And so it is with faith. If it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead" GNB



Folks, at our next board meeting on 13 April we will be forced to cancel any walk that has less than 22 pilgrims. I don't need to tell you what heartache that will cause.

Your board continues to make every effort to lower the price of the walks. As a start we have been successful in keeping the 2019 walks at the 2018 prices, and we are confident that we will succeed in lowering the prices for next

year's walks. That will help, but the crux of the matter is that unless the community lives by James 2:17 pilgrim numbers will always be a problem. We need to fish in new ponds. We have over fished the old ones. We need to cast our nets wider and begin the harvest much earlier.

On the issue of starting the harvest earlier, Maeve Dickens, our board member responsible for Face To Face has already prepared the pilgrim application forms for the next Face To Face Encounter which starts on 12 November at the Scottburgh Methodist Church and, in conjunction with the Scottburgh Church office, is setting up the system for registering pilgrims and for dealing efficiently and correctly with fee payments and receipts. Our Lay Director for the Encounter, Ian Featherstone, has already been appointed and team selection is about to start. So if you feel lead to serve on Encounter 121 please fill in your forms and get them to us as soon as possible.

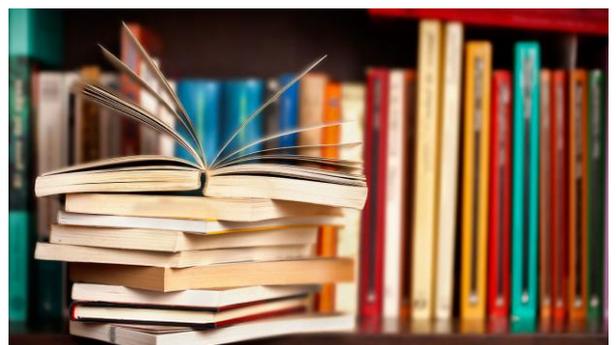
PRAYER VIGILS

After much blood, sweat and prayers, the prayer vigils for walks 119 and 120 are up and running on our website. Please take a prayer slot. Emmaus is a prayer based ministry and we all know that we can do nothing in our own strength. Let us, therefore, all fervently pray for God's protection, guidance and grace for the pilgrims, teams, sponsors and all involved, to the glory of our loving Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

LITERATURE

Wendy Landsberg, who heads the board portfolio for books and literature will be in attendance at both walks with a stock of new, fresh, up to date books for sale. Please will sponsors tell their pilgrims of the sale so that they may come financially prepared.

To whet your appetite Wendy has sent the following four previews of books that can be expected to be on offer.



1) God, Cornbread & Elvis. Bishop J. Pennel selling at R170

Book of Pondering's on God's ordinary Graces. Bishop Joe Pennel has a gift of finding God in everyday ordinary things. This book could be used for daily meditations, they're short, quirky & worth pondering I enjoyed browsing through it, awesome coffee/bedside table book.

2) iKids Craig Miller. R180

Whilst we grew up with only pencils, erasers & notebooks the new generation don't know a world without touchscreens, the social media & internet. What effects does this technology have on children's brains, physical health, relationships etc. this book is heaped with facts, and stats on our digital children. In a world where everyone has a smartphone, we've now replaced conversations and quality time with online games & Facebook. This book is an excellent guide for parents who want to raise Christian children with the right values. Miller provides teachers, parents, pastors & other leaders ways to give guidance for a deeper spiritual walk with God. Definitely worth reading

3) The Chocolate covered Umbrella Gilda Norbert. R145

To quote the introduction "Each time you sleep you could receive the gift of a dream that will change your life. Your dreams send you nightly invitations to grow, invitations so precisely tailored to fit you. Dreams spring from your feelings & fears, your scars & strengths, your hidden depths & desires, every nuance of your life that makes you unique. Your dreams provide a venue for the Holy One to act. Dreams are God speaking your language" I certainly hope this short intro gives you a thirst to read the rest of this book on discovering your dream code. I give it 5 stars ☆

4) Loving the World with God Rebecca Bruff. R90

You've completed your Walk to Emmaus. Now what? Rebecca Bruff invites you to continue your journey with Jesus, after your Emmaus weekend (lovely book to bless your Pilgrim with) This book encourages each of us to continue our walks as a servant hearted disciple of Christ. Well written beautiful book on Rebecca's Walk and her Fourth day experience. At R90 you can't go wrong, excellent read, excellent gift.

Wendy is also updating the book list and other literary information on our website, so should you wish to purchase or have any suggestions or queries, Wendy is happy that you contact her at walandsberg@gmail.com

EMMAUS GATHERING

Please diarise 1 June for a day of family fun in a special place, in a truly African bushveld setting. Come and marvel at the incredible ingenuity and diversity of God's creation. Look out in awe over the Umgeni valley and beyond to our own "Table Mountain"

Google The African Bird Of Prey Sanctuary for a sneak preview.

Watch this space for more exciting news!!



THE LAST WORD

A good deed is never lost: he who sows courtesy reaps friendship; and he who plants kindness gathers love. St Basil

Love and blessings to you all as we approach Easter.

Yours in the service of our loving Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Terry

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